

Why Canada Needs Universal Public Pharmacare

Did You Know?

- Canada is the only country in the world with a public health care system that doesn't include prescription medication.
- Among OECD countries, Canada pays some of the highest prices for medication.
- One in four households can't afford the medicines they need. That means people are getting sicker and having to visit the doctor and hospital more often.



Canada's Patchwork of Drug Plans

Private plans

Most Canadians have partial drug coverage through work-based insurance plans. They usually have to pay part of the cost of their medication. They risk losing their coverage if they change or lose their jobs or they retire. There are over 100 000 private drug plans in Canada with different levels of coverage.

Public plans

Only 1/3 of Canadians are covered by public drug plans, which vary across the country. There are over 100 public drug plans with different levels of coverage.

No plan

Many Canadians, including those who are self-employed, have no drug coverage at all. They often have to go without the medications they need.

Advantages of Universal Public Pharmacare

- With greater bargaining power, Canada could negotiate lower prices for medication. We could save up to \$11.4 billion per year.
- Prescription medication would be covered like other health services. Canadians could fill their prescriptions just by showing their health card.
- There would be no deductibles, co-payments or insurance forms.
- No one would be excluded.

Canada's National Public Drug Plan Should Be:

- **Universal**
- **Accessible**
- **Comprehensive**
- **Publicly-administered**
- **Portable**